



City Bolsters 'Rainy Day' Fund

The Autry administration will be presenting to our next Mayor a City that is even stronger financially than had been originally anticipated. In addition to the reserve fund for economic uncertainties which will exceed \$17.5 million, City Manager Andy Souza informed the Mayor and City Council this month that there was a greater than expected budget carryover, a full \$4.6 million more.

The additional dollars largely resulted from departments implementing various contingency plans and identifying efficiencies in their operations. In addition, variable rate bonds were refinanced at a savings and certain grant matching funds were not needed. Both wise budget decisions and prudent actions of each department can be credited for this surplus.

Mayor Autry made recommendations on disbursement of a portion of the excess funds, but the Council decided to wait on any distribution and instead place the funds in reserve for next year's budget.

Macro Pride in Magnet School's Micro Society

Deputy Mayor Jeff Eben had the honor of swearing in his student counterpart, Sunshine Lee, as Tioga Middle School celebrated the opening of its unique magnet school curriculum, "The City of New Fresno." Joining them at the ceremony were COF Public Affairs Officer John Wallace, and Tioga student City Manager Sydney Ratanabouapha.



The nationally acclaimed Micro Society project began as a revolutionary learning model that makes real world experiences relevant to students' lives. Tioga is one of only a handful of California schools that have undertaken this progressive step.

All students spend one period a day managing their own miniature community, not on-line, but in real time. Their New City of Fresno includes various features and services, including a bank, mint, newspaper/podcasting unit, and even a Department of Economic Growth.

The Autry Administration has expressed great admiration and support for the Tioga Micro Society program, as it promises to create independent, self-motivated learners---a key focus of the City's partnership with Fresno Unified.



Neighborhood Stabilization Program

The City of Fresno has been awarded a \$10.96 million allocation of the nearly \$4 billion available from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The Program provides grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the City to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes and to rehabilitate, resell, or redevelop these homes in order to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of house values of neighboring homes.

The funds can also be used to provide financing to assist low income homebuyers with the purchase of foreclosed homes.

When informed of the award, Mayor Autry responded, "This is a great opportunity for the City to make a positive impact in our neighborhoods that have been affected by this foreclosure crisis, especially those neighborhoods in our areas of concentrated poverty. I also want to thank President Bush and his Administration for their continued investment in our nation's communities."

Riverside Renaissance

After six months of work and an investment of \$2.5 million, Riverside Golf Course was rededicated on October 9. The course's 80-year-old irrigation system was completely overhauled which will allow for greener fairways and water conservation. Improvements include a functional lake with a fountain that now serves as a water hazard for holes 4, 5, 9 and 17. The process to create the lake also helped change the dynamic of the course as 31,500 cubic yards of dirt were placed throughout to change hole elevations and offer more challenging features.

Before the improvements only 10% of the course was reachable by golf carts. Now the paths cover 60% of the course and more will be added as revenues increase as more rounds are played.

Even with these improvements the work is not done. Future plans call for rehabilitating the bunkers and replacing greens.





Mobile Met Vehicle



The Department of Parks After School, Recreation & Community Services (PARCS), the Fresno Metropolitan Museum joined the ranks of nationally renowned museums like the Los Angeles Natural History Museum when it rolled out its mobile outreach vehicle - Met on the Move on October 13th. City leaders and representatives from the Fresno Metropolitan Museum gathered at the Fresno Fairgrounds to commemorate its debut and shared details of its feature and planned curriculum with fairgoers.

The Met on the Move project is a clear example of true partnerships at work. With the help of a sizable donation from Dan Gamel, the agencies involved created a vehicle to deliver hands-on art and science projects to Fresno youth. The Met on the Move is the latest addition to the PARCS Mobile Fleet, which in its entirety is believed to be unmatched nationwide. The Mobile Science vehicle joined the Met on the Move to provide hands-on activities to fairgoers throughout the day.

Dedicated DUI Checkpoints

The Fresno Police Department has literally put a face on the deadly dangers of drunk driving.

Motorists who drove down Blackstone Avenue near River Park recently saw the Department's first ever "Dedicated D.U.I. Checkpoint." The checkpoint was dedicated to 14-year-old Anita Cuadros, who was killed by a repeat drunk driver just one mile from her Reedley home. At the checkpoint, Anita's picture and story were on display for all the motorists who went through the checkpoint.

Chief Dyer said, "the goal of the dedicated checkpoints is to show those who drive drunk that their actions kill real people and devastate real families."

The Fresno Police Department will dedicate one checkpoint per quarter to a victim of a drunk driving collision.



Youth Advisory Board

November 14th is the deadline for students to apply for the City's first Youth Advisory Board to identify the concerns and needs of the children and youth of Fresno. The members must be between 15 and 18 years of age, and available to meet a total of 4 hours per month. The Board will have 11 voting members and 11 alternates and will be representative of the diversity of our community.

Each Councilmember will appoint one member and one alternate and the Mayor will have four appointees. Membership on this select advisory panel will be restricted to those youth who have an understanding of the needs of their peers, experience with youth groups, and involvement with school and community activities.

For applications and further information, contact Terri Saldivar in the City Manager's Office, 621-7796.

Honors and Awards

The Planning and Development Department received a 2008 Preservation Design Award from the California Preservation Foundation for the publication "Architecture, Ethnicity and Historic Landscapes of California's San Joaquin Valley." The awards banquet was held Saturday, October 18th on the Queen Mary in Long Beach. Accepting the award for the City was Karana Hattersley-Drayton (Historic Preservation Project Manager/Executive Editor) and Kevin Enns-Rempel (Fresno Pacific University/Editorial Board).

The publication includes 29 essays by 22 authors and was designed by Parola Design. It was printed by the City's own shop, with John DeLucia at the press.

Deputy Fire Chief Kerri Donis received the 2008 Outstanding Alumnus Award for Athletics from the Fresno State Alumni Association in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments in her field, in the community and at Fresno State.

In celebration of this honor, October 21, 2008 was proclaimed Kerri Donis Day in the City of Fresno. Mayor Autry presented the proclamation recognizing her work for the City including helping to establish both a fire safety education and marketing campaign and the creation of the Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation.





Mayor on the Move

- 10/2/08 Attended and spoke at a dinner hosted by the Fresno Regional Foundation that brought together leaders from major foundations to encourage them to join a leadership team to strategically invest in our region's infrastructure, economy and human resources to bring about systemic and generational change.
- 10/3/08 Hosted a press conference announcing the budget carryover and plans that would be presented to the City Council for the use of the extra funds.
- 10/9/08 Attended a special joint meeting of the Council of Fresno County Governments and the Fresno County Transportation Authority as a member of both boards.
- 10/15/08 Participated in a debate with Judge Wanger on the topic of "The Role of Courts in Society" during the annual Bench, Bar, Media Luncheon.
- 10/24/08 Participated in a press conference with Chief Dyer and US District Attorney MacGregor Scott announcing a Weed and Seed grant.

Summer Watering Schedule



Call 559.621.5480



Conservation TIPS From City of Fresno Water Division:

Water in several short sessions rather than one long one, in order for your lawn to better absorb moisture.

Avoid using your garbage disposal. This reduces the load on the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Ask for water wise plants in your local nursery.



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